



*Seasons Greetings from the City of Rockford*

# Forest City *Update*

## Stroll on State Brings people together

On November 30th, Rockford's first ever Stroll on State was a huge success. With thousands of Rockford area residents coming together to celebrate the holiday season, State Street was nearly unrecognizable as it was crowded by throngs of people enjoying the festivities. Those attending were entertained by ice skating, horse-drawn carriages, live music, Santa Claus and his reindeer making an appearance, and any number of vendors offering food and drink.

And while the climax of the day was definitely the lighting of the 30 foot tree that graced the PNC bank plaza, the entire event was themed around rediscovering downtown and presenting Rockford in her renewed glory. Many stores and restaurants in the area found themselves packed with new patrons, and independent artists and vendors were able to market their wares to individuals and families that braved the beautiful winter evening.



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## Morgan Street Bridge Ribbon Cutting

On Tuesday, December 17th, the Morgan Street Bridge was opened to the public of Rockford. To celebrate the event, a ceremony took place at City Hall, where a retinue of speakers from both the City and the various organizations responsible for the bridge's creation spoke. Many local political figures attended the event, including Senator Steve Stadelman, Governor Pat Quinn, and both former 5th ward Alderman Victory Bell and current Alderwoman Venita Hervey. The ceremony in City Hall had food and refreshments provided by local 5th ward restaurants and businesses.

An achievement in design, scope, and architecture, the Morgan Street Bridge

perfectly reconciled practicality and purpose. When building the bridge, the City catered to the needs and desires of the community. Roads and Bridges magazine lauded both the design and the care the City took in ensuring that the bridge would increase quality-of-life for citizens of Rockford.

The Celebration was completed at the Ribbon Cutting on the bridge itself, with Governor Pat Quinn and Ann Schneider, the Secretary of the Illinois Department of Transportation orating. When the ribbon was cut at 1:30, a surprise fireworks show graced all those in attendance.

*"This community now has a great bridge which brings us physically together, but the symbol, the spiritual and emotional lift we'll get from this bridge will speak even louder."- Mayor Morrissey.*

### Garbage Fee Changes and Electronics Recycling

With the change of the Garbage fee to \$18.86, a few new benefits will be available to Rockford residents. Electronic devices that you would like to discard (perhaps after receiving a new one this holiday season) that are no larger than 2 feet by 2 feet can be recycled. Examples of which would be cell phones, toasters, lap top computers, computer towers, keyboards, mouses, dvd players, radios, hair dryers and power tools. This would not include larger items like televisions, computer monitors and any device that exceeds 2x2 feet. Finally, every house will be receiving a new 32 gallon recycling can for your household to increase recycling rates. Larger totes for garbage may also be purchased for an additional fee by calling Rock River Disposal at 815-965-2489

## Christmas Tree Pickups

Christmas trees will be collected by Rock River Disposal from January 6th through the 30th. They can be placed with regular garbage.

A better option would be to recycle your tree with Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful (KNIB). KNIB offers 13 centers in the Rockford area where you can drop your tree off, listed below.

- Don Schmid Youth Sports Center
- Blackhawk Park
- Levings Lake
- Andrews Park
- Gambino Park
- Alpine Park
- Pecatonica Wetlands Forest Preserve
- Baumann Park
- Valley View Farm
- Rockton Boat Ramp Parking Lot
- Williams Tree Farm
- Machesney Park Village Hall
- Martin Park

Every year Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful collects in excess of 36,000 Christmas trees after they have done their initial service, and the mulch that they receive from the trees is made available to local residents for their use for free.

## Contact Information

Rockford Police Department  
420 West State Street  
Rockford, IL 61101-1288  
Phone: (815) 987-5839  
Fax: (815) 961-3208  
TDD: (815) 987-5495  
**Emergency: 911**  
Non-Emergency:  
(815) 966-2900

Rockford Fire Department  
204 South First Street  
Rockford, IL 61104  
Phone: (815) 987-5645  
Fax: (815) 987-5737

City Hall  
425 E. State Street  
Rockford, IL 61104  
Hours of Operation: Mon -  
Fri 8AM - 5PM

Customer Service  
815-987-5700

Finance Department  
815-987-5643

Legal Department  
815-987-5540

Mayor's Office  
815-987-5590

Human Resources Department  
815-987-5580

Human Services Department  
815-987-5782

Community and Economic  
Development Department  
815-987-5600

## Cub Scouts Visit City Hall

City Hall got a little bit louder on Monday, December 16th as a group of Cub Scouts toured their way through the building to learn a little bit more about Rockford.

The tour, which took them through each of the departments in the building and included a small lesson on what every department's role is, ended in the City Council Chambers, where each child got the opportunity to sit in the mayor's seat and bang his gavel.

To conclude the evening, the young men were given the opportunity to lead the Pledge of America during Monday evening's City Council meeting. No matter what they hoped to be when



*The Mayor met with the Scouts in his office in City Hall*

they grew up, every child was able to see what it was like to be the mayor.

## Aldermen Season's Greetings

A few of the Rockford Aldermen sharing a small message for the season:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward, Jamie Getchius— Happy Holidays from me, Ann-Marie and baby William for his first Christmas and holiday season.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Ward, Alderman Venita Hervey— Wishing the entire City of Rockford a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. To those in the Fifth ward, consider the new Morgan Street Bridge as a gift to you and the rest of the city, and look forward to more changes moving forward!
- 8<sup>th</sup> Ward, Jeanne Oddo— To all the people in the City of Rockford, I wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy New year.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Ward Frank Beach: My prayer is that the peace we sense during this time of year will linger in our hearts and minds beyond this season. Merry Christmas with God's richest blessings.
- 12<sup>th</sup> Ward, John Beck— Wishing everybody in the 12th ward and the City beyond happy holidays and a wonderful New Year. We've been working hard to create lasting changes in the City and I hope residents enjoy them in the times to come.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Ward, Joseph Chiarelli—I would like to wish my constituents of the 14th ward a very Happy and Healthy Holiday season. I hope this Blessed season extends throughout the new year for everyone and we reach our goals of a safer and more prosperous City. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!